प्रयास से मैं चाहूंगा कि उसको ठंडे बक्से से निकाल कर गर्म बक्से में लाया जाए और उसके संबंध में इनके जो तजुर्बे हैं, इनको जो जानकारी है, इनके साथ बातचीत करके उनसे हम फायदा उठाएंगे। अगर ऐसी कोई तकनीक निकल सके कि कोयले से हम खाद बना सकें तो यह बहुत अच्छी बात होगी।

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMAHA RAO): Sir, coal based fertilizer factories were opened in the early seventies at two places—one in Ramaundam and the other in Talcher. After a lot of experience they came to the conclusion that this technology itself was becoming wasteful and it could not be really proceeded with. For the first time, I learnt that in China the same technology or a similar technology of manufacturing fertilizer from coal had successfully been going on. We will certainly go into it. But I know personally that so far it has not been possible to make it economical and make it successful. Theoretically, yes, it is possible and we wanted to do it because as we know coal deposits are enormous in our country and we could have done it. But the technology does not seem to have succeeded so far. But if thert is any new breakthrough, we will certainly go into it.

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in reply to part (c) of the question regarding production of phosphate in the Paradeep plant, the Minister has stated that the targets were gradually falling from 7.20 lakh tonnes in 1991-1992 to 4.00 lakh tonnes in 1993-94. Similarly, the targets fixed also could not be achieved. I would like to ask some specific questions. What are the grounds for fixing low targets and what is the reason for not achieving the targets? This is one question. I would like to point out that there is a shortage of fertilizer in our country. Two days ago there was a story published in the front page of *Midday*, a Delhi-based evening paper in which it was stated that there was a nexus between the traders and the top-level people of the NFL. Some people from Haryana posted in the field areas, Yamuna Nagar and Kurukshetra, were also said to be involved. A case by the CBI has been registered amounting to a very huge amount... (*interruptions*)...

So, I would also like to know from the Minister whether this fact is in his knowledge and whether he would try to save the farmers from the clutches of the unscrupulous officers and traders.

श्री राम लखन सिंह यादव : जहां तक उसमें फर्टीलाइजर की कमी होने के कारण हैं तो मैंने पहले प्रश्न के जवाब में ही दे दिया है कि सारे देश से जो हमारा एग्रीमेंट था, उसके चलते मेन कारण हुआ और इसके साथ और भी कई कारण हो सकते हैं जिसको देख करके हमने कदम उठा लिया है। उसका भी मैंने विस्तृत ब्यौरा पहले दे दिया है। जहां तक केस की बात है मैं इस संबंध में कुछ कहना नहीं चाहता हूं जब तक मैं उसको देख न लूं। लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, इस समय मैं इनकी इनफार्मेशन को ग्रहण कर लेता हूं और इस संबंध में मैं पता लगाऊंगा की क्या सच्चाई है।

*165. [*The Questioners (Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Shri Trilokinath Chaturvedi) were absent. For answer vide col..... infra.*]

Decontrol of fertilizers

*166. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol some varieties of fertilizers very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this step will help the farmers in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government also propose to increase the farm-gate price of urea;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether such step will also help the farmers in any way; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (h) Do not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your first supplementary please.

SHRI K. M. KHAN: Sir, in this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that there are reports in Delhi newspapers that the Government of India is going to decontrol fertiliser. The report also says that the Government intends to withdraw the subsidy of Rs. 1000 per tonne on certain items of fertiliser. I would like to submit that if this subsidy is withdrawn, it will ultimately result in increase in fertiliser prices and it may adversely affect the food production in the country. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify whether it is a fact that the Government is going to withdraw this subsidy of Rs. 1,000/- per tonne.

श्री राम लखन सिंह यादव : आगे अभी सब्सिडी हटाने का कोई प्रश्न नहीं उठता है । मैं अब तक के प्रश्न का जवाब दे रहा हूं, आगे का कोई प्रश्न नहीं उठता । जहां तक एक हजार सब्सिडी देने का सवाल है, यह स्कीम इस वर्ष भी जारी है । माननीय सदस्य को मैं यह भी सूचित कर दूं कि पिछले बजट में 3,500 करोड़ रुपये का दिया गया था और 9 सौ रुपये बाद में प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बढ़ाए थे, सब्सिडी के किसानों के लिए । लेकिन इस बार के बजट में पहले से ही 4 हजार करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान कर दिया गया है सब्सिडी पर इसलिए पहले से कमी नहीं हुई है और आगे भी मैंने कहा कि अभी बढ़ाने का प्रश्न नहीं रह जाता है क्योंकि जहां आप हिसाब देखेंगे, इस सब्सिडी के सवाल पर जहां 1977–78 में हम 24 करोड़ 88 लाख रुपया देते थे आज वह बढ़ा करके हमारे यहां बहुत ज्यादा हो गया है । जैसा मैंने पहले आपसे कहा कि किसानों के हित में सब्सिडी जो मिल रहा है, दे दिया गया है, उसमें कटौती का कोई प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your second suppementary, please.

SHRI K. M. KHAN: I have no second supplementary, Sir.

*167. [*The Questioner (Shri John F. Fernandes) was absent. For answer* vide col..... infra.]

*168. [*The Questioner (Shri Janardhan Yadav) was absent. For answer* vide col.....infra.]

*169. [*The Questioner (Shri S. Jaipal Reddy) was absent. For answer* vide col.....infra.]

*170. [*The Questioner (Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari and Shri Dipankar Mukherjee) were absent. For answer* vide col.....infra.]

*171. [*The Questioner (Shri Jagmohan) was absent. For answer* vide col.....infra.]